Police barred from harassing 'Sikh woman', husband

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday restrained police from harassing an Indian Sikh woman who married a Muslim man of Sheikhupura.

Sarabjeet Kaur, 48, had come here via Wagah border to attend the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak at Gurdwara Janamasthan, Nankana Sahib.

She embraced Islam and contracted marriage with one Nasir Hussain. Sarabjeet was given a Muslim name, Noor, before solemnisation of nikah.

The couple moved the court against the alleged harassment by the police.

Advocate Ahmad Hassan Pasha appeared on behalf of the couple and alleged that police had been conducting raids at the residence of the petitioners.

The counsel alleged that the police had been harassing them at the behest of the local Sikh community. He pointed out that the petitioner woman had approached the embassy concerned for visa extension and further process to obtain nationality of Pakistan. He asked the court to order the station house officers of Saddar, Nankana Sahib and Bikhi, Sheikhupura, not to cause any harassment to the petitioners.

Justice Farooq Haider disposed of the petition and restrained the police from causing any harassment to the couple. — **Staff Reporter**

'Rapist' of mentally challenged girl held

LAHORE: The Kot Lakhpat police claim to have arrested a man who had allegedly raped a mentally challenged girl.

The 23-year-old (A) was reported as pregnant when she was brought to the Lahore General Hospital on Monday by an unknown man who had later fled the scene.

An official said the police team constituted for the purpose took help from the security cameras of the hospital and then tracked down the suspect through the safe city cameras.

He said the police finally managed to capture the suspect Nawaz from the residence of his relative in Kot Lakhpat area. — Staff Reporter

70pc decline in stubble-burning incidents, claims govt

67 QRCs active in major districts; critics say farmers had nothing to burn after flood destroyed crops

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: The Punjab government on Tuesday reported a 70pc decline in stubble-burning incidents across the province following the establishment of 67 quick response centres (QRCs) along the major motorways and in the key agricultural districts.

However, despite the claim, Lahore remained as the most polluted city of the world throughout the day with its air quality index (AQI) touching 380 at 8am. The AQI improved to 221 by 2pm but deteriorated again to 246 by 6pm. New Delhi replaced Lahore as the city with most polluted air at 8pm. The air quality in other cities, including Sialkot, Gujranwala and Jhelum, also remained very unhealthy throughout Tuesday.

According to a news release, Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb inaugurated the rapid response initiative to curb crop-residue burning and mitigate the annual smog crisis.

Officials say the QRCs have so far extinguished fires across hundreds of acres of farmland while 117 cases have been registered against those involved in burning crops, residue and waste. The province implemented a coordinated surveillance-and-response mechanism ahead of the harvesting season, integrating real-time monitoring with immediate field-level fire suppression.

The authorities said the strengthened deployment of QRCs, supported by surveillance squads, had significantly enhanced Punjab's capacity to detect and extinguish crop residue fires.

As a part of the strategy, nine 'Surveillance Squads' were deployed across eight designated beats, covering critical stretches of the M-2, M-3, M-4 and M-11 motorways and adjoining agricultural zones. Each squad consisted of an inspector, a field assistant and a driver, operating round the clock in two shifts.

At the heart of the system are the 67 QRCs, each staffed with a driver, a firefighter and a helper, forming a three-member firefighting team. Every QRC is equipped with a 4×4 tractor towing a 6,000-litre fire bowser, fitted with a high-pressure water-monitoring gun capable of projecting water up to 120 metres. The off-road mobility of the tractor, combined with the extended-range firefighting gun, enabled teams to control fires rapidly even in difficult terrain. This equipment allowed crews to respond within minutes to alerts, preventing crop fires from spreading and significantly reducing smoke emissions.

The coordinated field operations, they added, had been instrumental in limiting environmental damage and improving air quality during the peak smog period.

The government distributed the 67 QRCs across key districts. Sheikhupura had the largest share with 22 QRCs, followed by Gujranwala and Sargodha with eight each, Faisalabad with six, Sialkot with five, Nankana Sahib with four, and Hafizabad and Kasur with seven each. The officials stated that concentrating QRCs in districts such as Sheikhupura—where agricultural burning had historically been high—allowed for swift deployment across vast tracts of farmlands.

The officials said reduction in stubble burning this season represents one of the most substantial improvements in Punjab's environmental management efforts.

They added that the integrated system of surveillance and rapid response had now become a core component of the province's broader strategy to combat winter smog, which was exacerbated by agricultural emissions, vehicular pollution and industrial activity.

An environmental expert told *Dawn* that the government claim was not right as most of the crops were destroyed during floods in the province and the farmers did not have stubble to burn. He accepted that there was betterment in air quality as compared to last year but advised the government to stop making false claims and increase efforts to control smog.

Under the "Lungs of Lahore," Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) launched efforts to combat air pollution and smog in the provincial capital Lahore.

The PHA launched a tree-washing campaign on major roads and heavily trafficked areas of the city in the morning and evening to remove dust from leaves and enhance trees' oxygen-producing capacity.

PHA Managing Director (MD) Mansoor Ahmed Raja says that tree washing is currently being carried out along the greenbelts of the Mall Road, Ferozepur Road, Ring Road, Canal Road, Gulberg Road, Johar Town, Shahdara, and other key arteries of the city. In addition, plantation of trees, seasonal flower cultivation, and overall greenery maintenance are ongoing across various areas.

The PHA, in collaboration with public partners, is conducting a large-scale tree plantation drive. Priority is being given to shade-providing, fruit-bearing, and native tree species to ensure environmental sustainability.

TLP assets worth Rs23bn frozen, says Azma

LAHORE: Assets worth Rs23.40 billion belonging to the banned TLP have been frozen, along with 92 bank accounts linked to the organisation, says Punjab Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari.

Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, she said 90 financiers involved in funding the banned group had also been booked and 31 additional FIRs registered for spreading hate speech and incitement on social media.

Azma claimed that a significant quantity of modern weapons, bulletproof jackets, and ammunition shells had been recovered during operations against the organisation.

She further stated that 84 per cent Imams (prayers leader) across Punjab had been registered and the process would reach 100pc completion within the next few days. She added that the chief minister continued to appreciate the crucial role of Islamic scholars, who were not given due respect by previous governments.

Ms Bokhari said the Punjab Home Department had successfully brought five Wafaqul Madaris bodies on board, and the formal registration of seminaries across the province would commence soon.

The minister informed that 6,220 Afghan nationals have been repatriated in just three weeks. She asserted that illegal Afghans were trying to flee from Punjab and seek refuge in other provinces; therefore, the issue was being raised with the federal government and the Apex Committee. — **Staff Reporter**

Full bench to hear pleas against 27th Amendment

LAHORE: Lahore High Court Chief Justice Aalia Neelum on Tuesday constituted a three-member full bench to hear petitions challenging the 27th Amendment.

Justice Sadaqat Ali Khan will head the bench with Justice Jawad Hassan and Justice Sultan Tanvir Ahmad as its members.

The cause list of the full bench will be issued soon.

The other day, Justice Chaudhry Muhammad Iqbal had recused himself from the petitions challenging the amendment and requested the chief justice to fix them before any other appropriate bench.

A petition was filed by lawyers Munir Ahmad and Mian Shabbir Ismail through Advocate Azhar Siddique, arguing that the amendment conflicts with the basic structure and spirit of the 1973 Constitution.

The petition says there is a fear that the status of the Supreme Court will be weakened and judicial independence compromised following the amendment.

The petition alleges that the amendment has distorted the country's 60-year judicial history and tradition. It maintains that a federal constitutional court was never part of the original constitutional scheme.

The petition further argues that the current National Assembly is not a true constituent assembly and therefore lacks the authority to introduce such major constitutional changes. The amendment, it says, runs counter to Islamic provisions, judicial independence and fundamental rights.

In a second plea, a citizen, Hassan Latif, has again filed a petition against the 27th Amendment.

The petition contends that radical changes introduced by the amendment contradict the preamble to the Constitution and are aimed at curtailing the powers of the Supreme Court. — **Staff Reporter**

BoR approves auction of sugar mills land to clear growers dues

TOBA TEK SINGH: The Punjab Board of Revenue (BoR) in its full board meeting has allowed the Jhang district administration to sell through open auction the immoveable property of Shakarganj Sugar Mills and to clear the dues owed by the mills for the purchase of sugarcane from farmers during previous crushing seasons, which amount to several millions of rupees.

According to a press release issued in Jhang on Tuesday, Deputy Commissioner Ali Akbar Bhinder has formed a five-member auction committee, comprising the additional deputy commissioner revenue, the assistant commissioner, the circle revenue officer, a *Girdawar*, and a revenue department *Patwari*.

The committee will arrange an open auction on Nov 24 to sell 1,262 kanals of the sugar mill's land. The property is located in the limits of Chak Kot Essa Khan in Jhang tehsil on Toba Road. The sale proceeds will be used for the recovery of the growers' outstanding payments.

Shakarganj Sugar Mills was founded in 1978 by Mian Altaf Saleem, a former federal privatisation minister (1992–2002) and ex-chairman of SNGPL. His son, Ali Altaf Saleem, currently serves as the deputy CEO of the mills. — **Correspondent**

Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Chief Transformation Officer

Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and economic hub, faces significant challenges in its water supply and sewerage services. The Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) provides WASH services to nearly 17 million residents - about 84 percent of the city's population. Service delivery has historically been constrained by aging infrastructure, high non-revenue water, intermittent supply, and limited technological integration. These challenges have adversely affected service quality, financial sustainability, and consumer satisfaction.

To address these challenges, the Government of Sindh (GoS), with support from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, has launched the Second Karachi Water and Sewerage Services Improvement Project (KWSSIP-2). The Project Development Objective (PDO) of KWSSIP-2 is to provide safely managed water and sanitation services in Karachi and to increase the KW&SC's financial and operational performance. Component 1 of KWSSIP-2 is focused on Capacity Building and Reform of KWSC with an allocated budget of $14 million USD. One of the first interventions envisioned under the KWSSIP-2 is the signature by August 29, 2026 of a Performance Agreement between the KW&SC and the GoS establishing clear targets for performance improvement in the KW&SC. Compliance with the Agreement will be audited by a third party annually with the results shared made publicly available. KW&SC has also adopted its Information Technology Strategy (2025-2028) and Master Plan to improve end-to-end service provisioning. Various studies conducted in different tenures have also highlighted to introduce the reforms in all the realms within KW&SC to strengthen consumer engagement and organizational productivity.
In this context, KW&SC recognizes that reforms must be accompanied by effective change management to ensure acceptance, adoption, and long-term sustainability. The Change Management Director will lead structured change initiatives, manage Component 1 of KWSSIP, build stakeholder alignment, and enhance the overall effectiveness of institutional transformation.

Scope / Objectives

The Chief Transformation Officer will be responsible for guiding KW&SC through organizational, technological, and cultural transitions. The role encompasses developing and implementing structured change management strategies, ensuring that new systems, processes and way of doing business-as-usual are effectively adopted, while at the same time managing the human dimension of change. Chief Transformation Officer will support leadership, managers, and employees in adapting to reforms, thereby improving organizational performance, consumer satisfaction, and sustainability.

Position Requirements

Qualification

- Master's degree in Business Administration, Organizational Development, Human Resources, or related discipline (18 years of education).
- Certification in Change Management (e.g., PROSCI, ACMP, or equivalent) will be an advantage.

Experience / Core Competencies

- At least 15-20 years of relevant experience in organizational change management, digital transformation, or utility reform projects.
- Proven experience in developing and implementing change management frameworks in large organizations.
- Proven track record in organizational turnaround is required.
- Strong understanding of project management methodologies (PMI/PRINCE2) and technology-driven transformation.
- Demonstrated expertise in stakeholder engagement, communication strategies, and cultural transformation.
- Knowledge of Pakistan's public-sector institutional environment and experience with donor-funded projects will be preferred.
- Excellent interpersonal, facilitation, and negotiation skills.
- Ability to analyze organizational dynamics and propose tailored solutions.
- Strong reporting, presentation, and digital communication skills.

Reporting Line

- Reports directly to Chief Executive Officer (MD/CEO), KW&SC.
- Works in close coordination with the CITO, HR Department, Operations' departments and relevant Steering Committees as well as the Project Director of KWSSIP
- Provides oversight and guidance to departmental focal persons involved in change management activities.

Age: The age limit is 45 years but not more than 62 years on closing date of advertisement.

Tenure: This is contractual position for a period of 3 years, extendable on mutually agreed terms & Conditions.

The all Positions are based in Karachi. KW&SC is an equal opportunity employer. Absolute confidentiality will be maintained throughout the hiring process. Only those applicants who are shortlisted will be contacted for interview(s). TA/DA will not be admissible for the interview(s). The selected candidate will receive a competitive compensation package in accordance with their qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants may submit their application with a detailed CV, 2 passport size photos, a copy of their CNIC, experience certificate, and two personal references, along with copies of their degrees and testimonials, within 15 days of the advertisement date to office address, **Dy. Managing Director, HRD&A, Room 103, 1st Floor, Near Civic Centre, Karachi**

Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation

021-99245138, 99245140 info@kwsc.gos.pk www.kwsc.gos.pk Facebook.com/KWSCOFFICIAL Instagram.com/kwscofficial Twitter.com/KWSCOFFICIAL

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آیئں کراچی واٹر اینڈ سیوریج کارپوریشن کے ساتھ مل کر پانی کی بچت یقینی بنائیں

Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

The Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC), established under the KW&SC Act, 2023, is a prominent public sector utility responsible for providing clean and safe drinking water, alongside efficient sewerage services, to Karachi's residents.
As part of its ongoing transformation and comprehensive institutional reforms to achieve operational excellence and fulfil customer expectations, KW&SC is undertaking significant initiatives under the Karachi Water & Sewerage Services Improvement Program (KWSSIP-2). This program is supported by a financing package from the World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The principal objectives include the rehabilitation and upgrade of four water filtration plants and the implementation of energy reduction measures in Karachi.

PROJECT MANAGER - ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL AT KWSSIP-II

The Project Manager will oversee this cluster of contracts and related activities. Detailed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the position are available on the Karachi Water & Sewerage Corporation (KW&SC) website.

REQUIRED AGE, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:

The Project Manager must possess qualifications and experience commensurate with managing large, complex, IFI-financed infrastructure projects, particularly those involving water treatment, energy efficiency, and modern contract models (Design-Build).

Category	Minimum Requirements
Education	A Master's degree (preferred) or a minimum Bachelor's degree (16 years of education) in a relevant engineering discipline such as Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering.
General Experience	A minimum of 10 to 15 years of progressively responsible experience in the planning, design, project management, or execution of large-scale water or sewerage infrastructure projects.
Specific Experience	• Design, rehabilitation, or construction of water treatment/filtration plants • Implementing energy efficiency measures (e.g., audits, mechanical/electrical upgrades, pumping station optimization) in utility infrastructure • Managing and administering complex Design-Build (D-B) or EPC contracts • Working on International Financial Institution (IFI) projects (e.g., World Bank, EIB, ADB), with familiarity in fiduciary, procurement, and environmental/social standards
Technical Skills	Strong technical understanding of water utility operations and maintenance (O&M), NRW reduction strategies, SCADA systems, and performance monitoring.
Soft Skills	Excellent communication, negotiation, reporting, and coordination skills, particularly in liaising with government entities, contractors, consultants, and international development partners.
Age	The eligible age range for applicants is above 45 but not more than 62 years.
Tenure	This is contractual position for a period of 3 years, extendable on mutually agreed terms & Conditions.
Number of Posts	Two positions are to be filled.

Interested applicants may submit their application with a detailed CV, 2 passport size photos, a copy of their CNIC, experience certificate, and two personal references, along with copies of their degrees and testimonials, within 15 days of the advertisement date to office address, **Dy. Managing Director, HRD&A, Room 103, 1st Floor, Near Civic Centre, Karachi**

Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation

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